XXIX Hungary

Mr. X. was born in the city of Budapest, Hungary in the year 1865. He was one of four sons. His father owned a leather goods factory making shoes, boots, leather aprons, etc. Mr. X. finished high school at the age of seventeen, then went to his father's factory to learn the business. His father's factory was a good paying business, employing about twenty experts in that line. He had no desire to go to college, as he wanted to learn the custom shoe business with his father. He worked four years in his father's factory, saved his earnings and came to America landing in Waterbury, Connecticut in 1890.

He got a job in a leather goods business in Waterbury, Connecticut. Shortly after getting lined up, he married a German girl who was born in this country, although her parents had come from Germany. In 1892, a son was born. Mr. X. was connected with his firm for over twelve years, when his father died in Budapest. He took his wife and son and went back to Budapest where he took over his father's factory. His father was a good business man and had left a good sized estate. With his share of the estate Mr. X. bought out his brother's interest in the factory. His mother died in 1905. Mr. X. now owned a good paying business, had a wife and son, and financially nothing to worry about.

His son went through high school, then to college, taking

Mr. A. was born in the city of Budapest, Hungary in the year 1893. He was one of four sons. His father owned a leather goods factory making purses, boots, leather aprons, etc. Mr. A. finished high school at the age of seventeen, then went to his father's factory to learn the business. His father's factory was a good paying business, employing about twenty experts on the job. He had no desire to go to college, so he wanted to learn the ordered by business with his father. He worked four years in his father's factory, after his entrance and came to America learning in Waterbury, Connecticut in 1910.

He got a job in a leather goods business in Waterbury, Connecticut. Shortly after working there, he married a French girl who was born in this country, although her parents had come from Germany. In 1912, a son was born. Mr. A. was connected with his firm for over twelve years, when his father died in Budapest. He took his wife and son and went back to Budapest where he took over his father's factory. His father was a good business man and left a good sized estate. With his share of the estate Mr. A. bought out his brother's interest in the factory. His mother died in 1925. Mr. A. now owned a good paying business, had a wife and son, and financially nothing to worry about.

His son went through high school, then to college, taking

up chemistry. He sent his son to America in 1913 where he got a job in New York City. His son became a very capable chemist. He sold one explosive to the United States Government prior to the World War. Mr. X's son joined the American Army in 1917 and was killed in action in 1918. Mr. X. lost practically everything during the war. His son's war risk insurance policy for ten thousand dollars was left to him and his wife, so in 1921, they cleared up their business in Budapest and came back to America. He started his business here, this time in Buffalo, New York. He bought a shop and started building custom-made boots and shoes. He didn't do much business, but made a good profit on what he did. After five years, he decided to leave Budapest and try the West Coast. He came to San Francisco and bought a shoe shop on Gough Street which he still owns.

Although he is seventy years old, with a full beard, he is still hale and hearty. He has nothing but contempt for the ordinary shoe repair man, for he is a builder of custom-made foot wear. However, he is satisfied there is not enough demand today for that type of work to make a living. I will say the pair of "Good Year Wing Foot" heels he put on my shoes surely make walking easier.

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Switzer was born in a town named Kronstad, Hungary, in 1886. His father was a watchmaker. An older brother preceded Joseph Switzer to America by some five years. The brother went to work in the steel mills in Pittsburgh and it was his money that brought Joseph to America in 1906. Well educated in Hungary, and an expert violinist, Switzer thought he would find work easily in the musical profession in America. He was disappointed and went to work with his brother in the steel mills in Pittsburgh.

The work, he said, was almost ruinous to his musical career. It toughened his hands and he lost the touch necessary to a good violinist. So, in 1908, he quit the job in Pittsburgh and decided to come to Los Angeles where, he had read, musicians were used in the making of motion pictures. But he had no money and no violin and his brother, and other Hungarians with whom he worked in Pittsburgh thought he was foolish to give up his job and would lend him nothing. An old German music teacher with whom he practised came to his rescue and gave him transportation to Los Angeles. After months of hanging around the studios, during which he worked at all kinds of jobs, he finally got a part at Universal Studios playing in a little orchestra used in the making of pictures. From then on Switzer had rather clear sailing. He began playing in moving

Swildens was born in a town named Ironwood, Michigan, in 1890. His father was a watchmaker. In older brother preceded Joseph Swildens to America by some five years. The brother came to work in the wood mills in Kitzsburgh and it was his money that brought Joseph to America in 1910. Well educated in Germany, and an expert violinist, Swildens thought he would find work easily in the musical profession in America. He was disappointed and went to work at his old occupation in the wood mills in Kitzsburgh.

The work, he said, was almost ruinous to his musical career. At twenty-one his hands are as hard as iron necessary to a good violinist. So, in 1923, he quit the job in Kitzsburgh and decided to come to Los Angeles where, he had read, musicians were used in the making of motion pictures. But he had no money and no violin and his brother, and other Germans with whom he worked in Kitzsburgh thought he was foolish to give up his job and money long enough to settle. An old German made Swildens wait at work for a prescribed date to his reasons and gave him transportation to Los Angeles. First months of hanging around the studios, hoping which he worked at all kinds of jobs, he finally got a part at Universal Studios playing in a little orchestra used in the making of pictures. From then on Swildens had rather close sailing. He began playing in moving

picture theater orchestras and has worked in some of the largest theatres up and down the coast.

Here in San Francisco, he played in the old Portola, the Strand, the Imperial, the California Theatres. That was in the days of the silent pictures. When the talking pictures came in his musical world toppled about his ears. He found himself rushing to his old orchestra leaders asking them for work while they themselves were trying desperately to get positions. Everything was confusion in the musicians' world, and as far as I can see, Switzer has never recovered from that confusion. The whole trouble is that for years he had things too easy, and now he is dazed. Perhaps this is a bit unjust but it's the way I see it. He is out of work at present but still has a few hundred dollars left. When that is gone he doesn't know what he will do. When I remarked that there should be a fair demand at present for good musicians, what with restaurants, hotels and radios needing men for orchestras, he became angry and said I didn't understand; what they wanted in American orchestras at present were blacksmiths, not musicians. He added rather sorrowfully that he was too old. Young men with pep and looks would win an orchestra job over an older man no matter how great a musicians he might be.

At present he is writing music, not the popular song variety, but symphonies. He is competent to orchestrate any musical

pleasure theater orchestras and has worked in none of the large-
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work. He has sent many of his compositions to publishers but none have been accepted up to the present. He would go to New York where many great publishing houses are located but his money is not sufficient, though he has enough to pass the winter comfortably in San Francisco.

I asked him why he didn't write some musical symphonies of America. Rather sarcastically, I thought, he said, "Now just what theme would you suggest." The only theme that came into my head was my own game, newspapers. So I began to describe the atmosphere of a newspaper plant, the roll and throb of the presses, the pound of printers' hammers, clicking typewriters, shouts of "copy", "copy", the eternal rush and roar that accompanies the getting out of an edition, up to the newsboys shouting on the streets. Then the let-down and quiet after the sheet it out. Mr. Switzer became interested and for the first time I think he gave me credit for having at least one brain cell. He said he couldn't write the necessary to make a symphony of the theme I suggested, but he knew a musician who could. I'm going to follow up Switzer because I think there is more of a story to his life in America than I have been able to secure.

His attitude toward this country is that of a proud man who has been disappointed in his efforts to reach the heights. He says if he aimed low, that is in the musical profession, if

he had been content to be a mere hack writer of cheap songs, and a second rate violinist he would have made a great success in the world's eyes, and have had a great deal of money. But his art was more to him than money and still is. The one thing that has made him bitter is the number of years he spent playing in the movie studios in Hollywood. They hardened his soul, he says, more than the Pittsburgh Steel Mills did his fingers.

The man is a likeable fellow as one comes to know him better. I think he is worthwhile, and have no doubt that I may be able to get something interesting from him.

In 1885, Janos Gombos was born in the city of Budapest, in the nation then known as Austria-Hungary, but since the last war, as well as the treaty of Versailles, is known simply as Hungary. His father was a prosperous leather merchant, and as was the custom in most European countries in the past, the male children of rich people were destined either for an army career or the priesthood.

When Janos was old enough to go to school, he was sent to a parochial school because the priests were regarded as the best teachers. He was a student in that school until he became of age when his individual "inclinations" for a career were supposed to be more or less discernable, and that was when he had attained the age of about seventeen years.

One evening after supper Janos' father said, "Son, the director of the school told me that you are a good student, and also that you would become a true and faithful servant of the Church, if I could induce you to study for the priesthood. I had planned for you an army career, but of course compared with the priesthood, an army officer has a much harder life. What do you think? I mean, what is your own preference? I think you are of an age to know your own mind and to choose the profession that would please you best".

Janos did not know at the moment what to answer his fa-

ther. Therefore, he asked for a chance to give the matter some thought and consideration, to which his father agreed.

After several days had elapsed, Janos was again questioned as to whether he had thought of the matter of his career and his answer was: "Yes, father". Hesitating to disclose his conclusion Janos was pressed for an answer and he said, "Father, dear, I know that it is unbecoming for a dutiful child to opposepose his father's wishes, but in view of the fact that I have to choose a career, and after attaining manhood I shall have to live my own life, as it were, I have no desire either for an army or a priest's career. I should much prefer to be either a lawyer or a merchant.

After Janos expressed himself, his father gave a frown and dropped the subject. The father, however, had his heart set and his mind made up to choose the career for his son. Therefore, clandestinely, he called on the director of the school for the purpose of prevailing upon him to try to persuade his son to change his mind. The director at first declined to assume the task, but upon being promised money for the purpose of enlarging the gymnasium of the school, he consented to try and do what he could.

From time to time Janos was invited by the director into his private library and there the director began to tell him how badly the church was in need of real men to function as

priests for the glory of God. Janos was told of the many saints in the church's calendar and also of many men, who, during their lifetime, attained the highest ecclesiastical offices. The director was certain that a man with Janos' studious inclinations and mental vigor could even attain to the wearing of the Tiara and thus be Pope and Vicar of Christ.

Janos listened attentively to the director's dissertation, but never uttered a word. Nor did the director press him for an answer or even given an indication as to how he felt about the matter. In due time, however, the director became anxious to know what progress, if any, he had made with Janos. Therefore, in a most "fatherly" insinuating manner he said, "Well, Janos, tell me whether or not I have made at least a dent in your obstinacy regarding your career. In other words, will you or will you not become a true and faithful servant of the church? Without a moment's hesitation Janos said: "Father, no, I will not become a true and faithful servant of the church. In fact I am constrained to make a confession to you, but before I do so, I must have your promise to keep the matter a secret. After the director gave his promise to keep the matter secret, Janos said, "Father, I shall leave this country as soon as I secure a passport. My destination will be America. But on the day of my departure I shall write to my parents the reason for my going."

On the day of his departure Janos mailed to his parents the following letter:

Dear Father and dearest Mother:

At the time this letter will have been delivered to you I shall have crossed the border and be travelling through Germany on my way to Bremen. At Bremen I shall embark upon a ship whose destination will be New York. In New York I shall meet the girl with whom I have been in love for nearly one year. She left this city with her parents about four months ago for New York, the largest city in the United States. Before my sweetheart's departure, she introduced me to her parents and they promised to receive me in their home in America, should I decide to follow them. You know the family Berger very well, and I pray that you will forgive me for my secret plans and departure without giving you any information thereof. As soon as I shall reach the United States and make my plans for the future I shall write to you.

With love and kisses to you both and also to my brothers and sisters, I am,

Your loving son,

Janos.

To say that Janos' parents were grief stricken would be putting it mildly. However, in a short time they began to become reconciled to their own as well as Janos' fate.

When the ship on which Janos travelled as a passenger reached New York and the passengers disembarked, his sweetheart and her father welcomed him with open arms and took him to their home.

Janos was at this time about eighteen years of age and his sweetheart one year younger.

While he was relaxing and resting from the long journey, Janos was making plans for his future. About a week after he had landed in New York, Janos learned that there were several lawyers who also came from his native city and country. After a few inquiries he was advised to call upon a well-known lawyer, who also came from Budapest.

Shortly afterwards, Janos went to the lawyer's office, and using the Hungarian language said: "I know lawyers charge for advice. I want some advice and I am willing to pay you a reasonable fee for it." In the same language the lawyer asked Janos his age and he replied "eighteen years". Thereupon the lawyer asked him to tell his entire story and particularly the reason for being alone in New York instead of with his parents in Budapest. Janos told the lawyer the entire story.

After Janos was finished the lawyer said, "I, too, left Hungary against my parents' wishes, but I am not sorry, nor are my parents sorry now. Well, young man, come back tomorrow at nine o' clock in the morning," and he offered Janos his

hand. Janos asked the lawyer how much his fee was and the lawyer said, "I shall tell you tomorrow."

Promptly at nine o'clock on the morning of the following day Janos and the lawyer were together in the latter's private office. After some unimportant remarks, the lawyer said: "Young man, your mother and I are second cousins and because I thought a good deal of her when I was still in Budapest I shall do my utmost to help you realize your wish, that is, to become a lawyer."

Before the interview ended, the lawyer advised Janos to register at a night school, where he would quickly acquire a thorough knowledge of the English language; also to report at the office every morning at nine o'clock.

The interview having come to an end, the lawyer introduced Janos to various law clerks in the office, and one in particular, who spoke the Hungarian language a little was introduced to assist Janos with his lessons.

That same evening Janos related his good fortune to his sweetheart and also to her parents. Shortly thereafter he wrote full details to his own people in Hungary.

In about two years after arriving in New York, Janos, having passed the examinations in all of the subjects required by the Regents of the State of New York, secured the law certificate entitling him to register as a law student in any law

school. Shortly after, he entered a night school, and at the same time he became a regular clerk in his benefactor's office. After graduating from the law school, he took the Bar examination and was recommended for admission to the Bar.

On the day of his admission to the Bar he was made the junior member of the firm of Low and Gombos.

Not long thereafter Janos married his sweetheart and they decided to spend their honeymoon in California. Thither they journeyed, and after visiting the larger cities in that state, they were enchanted with the topography of the land and the exhiliration of the climate to such a degree that they both felt a strong urge to remain and settle in San Francisco. They did so, much to the regret of their people in New York.

At first Janos built up a fairly remunerative law practice, but since the depression set in, in 1929, economic conditions have played havoc with his practice, his own as well as with his wife's health, and the welfare of their four children.

Today they are dependent upon charity.

Alexis and Mitzi, twins, were born in Erlan, Hungary, in 1882.

Their mother died in 1890 and their father brought them to New York where he worked at his trade of shoemaking. During this time, the two children were going to school.

Alexis, after finishing grammar school took up the shoemaking trade and about 1900 went to work in his father's shop.

In 1905, the father died and the twins sold out and with about one thousand dollars came to San Francisco, where they started a shop of their own. Mitzi kept house and also helped in the store.

They branched out and in 1925, were running three shops, all of which were doing well.

Alexis took six months off in 1928 and visited his old home in Hungary, where he married and brought his bride back to San Francisco.

Then, in 1932, his sister Mitzi took a trip to the old home and when she came back, she married a fellow countryman in San Francisco.

Until 1933 they prospered, but after the depression got under way they closed up two of their shops and continued with only one.

About July 1934 Alexis was suddenly taken sick and died.

Since then Mitzi, the sister, has been continueing with the business and is doing well.

Neither of them had any children.

Mitzi is naturalized and is a good citizen now.

Mr. X. was born in Gyor, Hungary, in year 1851, of parents in moderate circumstances, his father being one of the most noted stone masons of that time. Mr. X. was educated in one of the best schools of Hungary. It was a luxury for a child to be able to go to school at that time.

When Mr. X. was twelve years old he lost his father, and Mr. X. had to go out and shift for himself in order to support his mother. As his father was a stone mason and Mr. X. often watched and helped his father at his trade, he seemed to fall right into the harness, so to speak. All his father's friends helped him to try to do the work his father loved so well.

When Mr. X. was eighteen years old his mother went to the Great Beyond through grieving over her husband. Mr. X., after settling what little estate was left, and with the little money he had saved, realized he could not bear to be at home any longer. Naturally, he had heard of the United States and its great possibilities, so he decided to leave his native land and come to the United States. Mr. X. landed in New York City and lived there for about two months and being unable to obtain employment, decided to come farther west. In Chicago Mr. X. found employment as a stone mason and worked upon some of the city's municipal buildings for about two years. In the meantime Mr. X. met a young lady of Hungarian descent, but a native of Wisconsin, whom he married. She was

a great help to him, taught him to read and write, and also speak the English language. In the year 1875 Mr. X. and his wife went to Wisconsin, her native state, and settled in Fondulac in the coal region, and Mr. X. found employment in the coal mines. One son and two daughters were born while Mr. X. worked in the mines.

In the year 1884, Mr. X. lost his wife and went to Dows, Iowa. He went into the general merchandize business and about six years later married his second and present wife, an Irish American woman. Mr. X. did very well at his business and started to invest his money in real estate, buying small farms, stocking them, and reselling. He found out that it was an easier way to make money so he sold his merchandize business and went into the real estate business. In 1895, Mr. X. became a citizen of the United States and his oldest son entered the University of Wisconsin to study law.

In 1900 Mr. X. and family came to California and lived in Los Angeles for about ten years, his two daughters completing high school there. Mr. X. dealt in real estate while in Los Angeles, but could not stand the dry climate of the south so he came to San Francisco and retired from active life. His son is practicing law here in San Francisco and living at home. His two daughters also live at home. Mr. X. laughed when I asked him if he had lost any money during the depression, but

informed me, "Sure, a little, but I made and lost money before, but I learned a long time ago when to quit." I also asked him if he had any desire to return to Hungary, but he replied in the negative for he loves the United States, especially San Francisco, where his son is doing so well and his entire family is enjoying the best of health and prosperity.

I was born in Budapest, Hungary. I came over to America because I had an older brother over here. He had bought himself a small farm in Salinas and had done well and bought a larger farm. He thought it wise that I come over and help him as he could well use me. A second letter came saying that he would send enough money for my father, mother and sister to come also, and for us to sell our little place which we did. When we arrived here we found the house in Salinas, while not much as a home, even in those days, was like a palace. We were farmers from the outskirts of the city of Budapest and very poor; all we had had was the farm we owned. So father helped, and I helped in the farm, and my mother and sister kept house. Rest assured it was hard work and long hours; but we did not mind. We were successful beyond our dreams, but as years rolled on, the Japanese were gradually working in and cutting the prices of our products. We changed from one commodity to another but before we knew it, they, too, were producing it, and at a lower price than we could with white labor. This went on for a few years, there was hardly any more profit for our hard labor. Until the last year we stayed in the farm, we just broke even.

My brother and I decided we were beaten with such competition, and he decided we should go into the produce commission business in Salinas, but I suggested that as long as we had de-

cided on such a step, let us go towards San Francisco where there was surely bigger opportunity. My brother was afraid, but after much persuasion, came, and is happy to this day for it. It certainly was better to put our efforts and time where it would be more highly rewarded if successful. The people we sold our farm sold all their products and were now buying from others by the carloads. As you can see we have developed one of the largest in the city. We have made money and any year, even in the depression.

We both married and had families several years ago. I made a trip to Europe and visited in Budapest and went to our old farm. The farm is still there, yes, almost identically as we left it thirty-five years ago. I just stood there and wondered in amazement how I ever lived there and under such conditions. I could hardly realize it. I guess the poorest house in San Francisco is better than that; in fact, I know it. Such an item as a single sanitary convenience was not in the house, not even after thirty-five years. Everybody seemed so very poor. I thought how wonderful it was we had come to America, otherwise my lot, I suppose, would just like theirs. Truly we have lots of poor here, but in Hungary, everyone is poor. It is hard to see how they exist.

In regards to the Japanese, yes, it is a most serious question in our farm life -- and if they do not stop the Japanese,

they will crowd out any white man in the industry of raising flowers, vegetables, fruits, etc. They are beginning most seriously to hamper and drive out the Italians in this field, and everyone knows how cheaply they work, and hard enough, but no comparison to the Japanese. I sincerely believe the government should stop it.

(I asked if that might not cause trouble tetween Japan and the United States, for us to take such action.) Why we are plenty big enough to take care of Japan and a few others to boot. Don't worry about Japan trying to attack us; she knows she would be beaten, and Russia would get right after her if she should show any weakness or unguarded territory at home, and take all her territory she has stolen from China, and more besides. In fact, I think Japan has more than she can take care of right now.

Tillie S. was born in Sage Keresture, a little village in Hungary. She lived on a farm. The women and men worked very hard in the fields. The little children stayed at home. There were four children in the family. They only had two rooms. One room, they all slept in, and the other was used as a living room. Tillie was the youngest; besides her there were two girls and a boy.

When Tillie was ten years old, she had to do the housework and the cooking. She was so small that she had to stand on a chair to reach the table to make noodles for the soup. They had lots of vegetables, fruit, and fish, but meat was very scarce. Tillie's brother was a butcher so they had meat more often than anyone in their district. On their farm they had poultry, vegetables, plums, and grapes.

Then Tillie's father died, and her mother remarried. Tillie liked her stepfather but she was old enough to know that he wasn't her father, and she didn't care to stay at home.

When she was thirteen her aunt left for America. Tillie went with her. They reached New York and Tillie went to live with her aunt there. They found her a position in a family, doing housework, and taking care of a baby nine months old. This was in 1895. In 1897, when Tillie was fifteen years old, she was married. Her husband used to peddle with a pack on his back

carrying supplies, needles, thread, socks, pots, etc., to the different housewives. When Tillie was sixteen she had a little boy. Then her husband decided to come to California to live. He bought a horse and wagon and went to the country to buy junk.

In Hungary they didn't believe in educating girls; only boys. Tillie started to go to night school in San Francisco. Then her husband took out citizenship papers and they became American citizens.

Every two years Tillie had a child until seven children were born. Two children died, one from diphtheria, before they had that serum anti-toxin to prevent it. The other one died in infancy. Then the World War came on and one of her sons enlisted in the United States Army. The older son had already married and had a child. The girls helped at the Red Cross Headquarters, making bandages and sweaters for the soldiers overseas.

Tillie's husband started a clothing store and she helped him and he was very successful.

Tillie is very happy in San Francisco with her family and friends. She has no desire to return to Hungary and is perfectly satisfied to be a good American citizen. Her children are married now. She has six grandchildren. They come to see her and she often tells them about her childhood and compares it with theirs and tells them that they are living in the best country in the world.

John Bakes was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1877. He was one of eleven children, and he is the only one to come to this country. He landed in San Francisco about ten years ago, after a long and hard trip from his home in Hungary.

After coming to San Francisco he soon found employment as dishwasher in a restaurant on Third Street. He joined the Union of Restaurant Help and continued at this work for nearly two years. While his salary only amounted to about fifteen dollars a week, still he managed to save up three hundred dollars in that length of time. With this amount of money he bought an interest in a Cooperative Restaurant Company in San Francisco and is working and drawing his share of whatever profit the business makes. When he first started in this business, his share of the profits plus his salary amounted to as high as eighty dollars a week. At the present time, however, he says he is thankful to be getting his salary of fifteen dollars a week.

He is married and has four children. They must live on his small salary he says until business gets better, which he thinks is sure to come very soon. He is glad he came to this country and thankful for the little money he is able to make.

Fanny was born in Ypres, a little village in Hungary. She lived in a small frame house with two little rooms. They raised their own food for the family. When Fanny was three her mother died and her father remarried. Her father had charge of a number of woodchoppers.

Fanny's brother came to America and he was very successful. He owned a large general merchandise store in Alabame. He sent money for the entire family to come to America. They landed in New York. He kept the family until Fanny's father learned the cigar trade. Fanny was a nursemaid for different people until she was fourteen. She then learned to make cigars. She made about twelve dollars a week. She worked at cigar making until she was twenty years old, when she got married and moved to Jersey.

She had five children. She moved to San Francisco in 1903 where they stayed until 1906. Then there was the big fire and her house was burned down and she lost everything including furniture, jewelry and clothes. She slept in Golden Gate Park with her five children. Her husband was a junk peddler and the only thing they saved was the horse and wagon. After two nights in Golden Gate Park they moved to Ingleside to the Refugee Camp there where they lived for four months. Her husband was sick and he couldn't work. They moved to Mountain View without any

money. When her husband was a little better, he started to peddle junk and managed to get a little money to pay back the people who gave them the food and a little house to live in. They lived there for four years and then came back to San Francisco.

Fanny and her husband both went to night school and with the help of their children became American citizens. Fanny's children are all married and there are no better citizens than her children. During the World War two of her children enlisted in the United States Navy and the rest of the family worked for the Red Cross. Fanny says in spite of her hard struggles her children grew up to be fine American citizens. They all have good education and fine positions.

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[illegible] on

[illegible] a brother

[illegible]

II

and went to Portland to get a place to sleep. He had heard about the Expedition and had frequently stay over Sunday and left his wife to go there. He went to work as a clerk in the Palace Hotel in 1915. He went to work as a bar boy in the Hoffman saloon. He stayed there for six months. He decided to be a waiter and went to work for the old Bearse House. He had made its route from Portland to Portland. He made four trips and kept track of them. He got a position as a cigar girl in the old Lucky Lunch. He kept this position until the Thousand Hotel in the United States Navy. The duration of the war. The armistice was signed but he was in the Navy for two years after the war.

[illegible] and the [illegible]
[illegible] San Francisco
[illegible] the Calgary, the
[illegible] three months and
[illegible] little money. He
about the north and should
go there [illegible] for [illegible]
a freighter. The last [illegible] to
Yokohama, Kobe, Hongkong, Java
and Manila. He stayed with Java
in Manila and then got [illegible]
[illegible] Canadian [illegible]
on United States transport [illegible]
destitute [illegible] where [illegible]
to be broke [illegible] San Francisco
[illegible] to become [illegible]
in France that [illegible] to [illegible]
back. He got home in [illegible]
[illegible] in Winnipeg [illegible]
called Selkirk [illegible] He
[illegible] Lowe [illegible]
[illegible] twenty years [illegible] He

4

left Lacon with his wife and came
back to San Francisco. He
got a position as a bartender in
the Palace Hotel where he
worked for two years. He met
an American girl who lived in
Oakland. They fell in love and
were married. From Frank
Lewis Hand that he bought
from his brother-in-law. Instead
of having the store full of
merchandise it was half empty.
His brother-in-law removed the
merchandise before he gave Lewis
the keys to the store. His wife
was expecting a child and the
landlord raised the rent. Lewis
the amount he was paying. There
was nothing Lewis could do but
move out. He brought a hand
truck and brought it from
Jones Mechanic Street late
and locked up. He left the

[illegible]

[illegible] Mountain where he lived in

[illegible] Department there

was clothing [illegible]

two years. Shortly after the

Franklin in 1820, the Department

[illegible] work for the period of [illegible] years

[illegible]

6

In 1931 Lou's daughter became very sick with pneumonia. She recovered and this brought on a reconciliation between Lou and his wife and they now live together. Lou and his family moved back to San Francisco where he went back dealing in Cars. He kept on this job for three years and saved a little money. He bought a little cigar stand at a prominent hotel. His business quite of a number of prominent people in San-Francisco from working in the various cafes. They patronized Lou's and he made a good living. He still keeps the cigar stand and soon intends to open another cigar stand at a different hotel. Lou has his adjusted compensation certificate and will soon collect his entire bonus. He intends to make a payment on a Veterans Home

1

His daughter is twenty years old & she is going to finish high school. She is a typical American girl & she has many friends. Louis has done much bowling in his thirty years but as he says something always draws him right back to San Francisco. That's home to him. As for Budapest he has no desire to live there but sometime soon he hopes to go back with his wife and daughter to visit his parents who are getting old. They have their little farm and friends & would not care to come to America. In spite of Louis's ups and downs everything is looking bright again. He says Americans don't know what a person can make good if they try hard enough. If the United States needs him to fight for their country I'll always be willing to go because here I have I make my living and in the country I love.

B. Schwartz

Sam M. the gardener 65 yrs.

Sam M. was born in Gyoro in the village in Hungary in the year of 1871. He was the eldest of five children. His father died when he was little. Sam never went to school. When Sam's father died he had to work to support his family. He worked at many things. He went to school until fourteen years old. He then worked for a farmer. When he was twenty years old he went to the Army. He served three years. He then came home and married. He had five children. He worked very hard to make a living for his family. He saved money to go to New York. He promised his parents that he would send for them as soon as he had money to bring them. He came to America. He went to New York. He had a friend of his who lived in

He whose the stranger for a year
Here lived and chilled for
how to peddle dry goods from
one house to another just as
he was doing. By the evening
came we to the night school and
in a short time he learned
the English language so he
grew tired of New York and
went to Cortland, Illinois.
He peddled dry goods for three
years and then he saved enough
to start a general merchandise
store. He bought out partners
sold the store and became
wealthy. He opened another
store in Sterling with a partner
He had many colored people
working for him on the plan
tations and in the home.
His store was robbed three
times but the thieves were
never caught. Sam was

[illegible]

[illegible] Lewis

[illegible] government

[illegible]

the United States Army and

went overseas to France. He was

wounded in the leg and at

became a battle Doctor. The

war is ended and he is expected

home Nov. 18th. He is the

son of Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]

Lewis of Oak Park. He is a graduate

of Oak Park High School

in 1917 and attended

the University of Illinois

[illegible]

[illegible] to bring

his parents, one brother and

4

after the war was over they
moved to Alabama where
our grandfather died and
left his family destitute
and penniless.

Our parents married in New
York where they lived for two
years then they moved from there
to Georgia. Father died there
leaving three children. Mother
died soon after leaving the three
orphans. Before long the three
orphans decided they would go
to California and accordingly
they made arrangements and
started there. We lived
with our Grandfather in Alabama
but they left us for California
leaving us with our Grandfather
in Alabama. We
remained there 7 or 8 years
when we joined our father
and mother and we
lived with them
on a farm
in the
mountains and
we came to San
Francisco. We brought many

[illegible]

of health. Now says he he is not
feeling the effects from his
hardships he has been successful.
He said after the storm could
he thought that he would always
be poor, but with hard work for
six days he is rich. He says San
Francisco is the only place for
me I expect to spend the best
of my life here. I've learn to
know to get lo[illegible] for my
old home in Iowa. He has many
grandchildren & they are
good American citizens. His
children are all married
and live right here in San
Francisco.

THE HUNGARIANS (ARTICLE)

Introductory factual data on the local colony (incomplete.)

EARLY HISTORY (incomplete).

According to local residents, there were a few Magyars in San Francisco fifty years ago. But the history of the first arrivals is unrecorded, and can be told only after considerable research - interviews with as many "old timers" as possible. Bodano, the sculptor, at present a leader of the Hungarian Singing Society, came to the city thirty years ago.

Some twenty-five years ago, about one hundred Magyar members of the U. S. Socialist Party held regular meetings, the attendance of which was confined to their own nationals in San Francisco (the number of Socialist Party members among San Francisco Magyars has since dwindled to a handfully eight).

ASSIMILATION

The moral and intellectual status of the Magyars is, according to students of immigration, higher than that of the Slavic races, but they are more high-strung and nervous and less adaptable than, for example, the Slovaks - who, before the World War, inhabited a part of Hungary. They do not associate with members of other "races" among the people who have emigrated from Hungary. They also keep very much aloof from Americans (though this does not apply to the "second generation" - which is very much American indeed). The older Magyars in San Francisco, as elsewhere in the United States, have their old world ideas, and being very proud of them as having been the dominant race in the old country, they do not freely mix with Americans. Only about fifteen per cent of the San Francisco Magyars before the War took out naturalization papers as against 83 per cent of Slovenians, 24.1 per cent of Bohemians, and per cent of Lithuanians. Their pride prompted them to live here i pectation of going home again.

POPULATION FIGURES

The census of 1930 gives the number of Hungarians in San F

NO LOCAL COLONY

[illegible]NY. Approximately one half of these are Hebrews, so that not more than six hundred Magyars, including the "second generation" are to be found in the city. There is nothing resembling a local Magyar colony in San Francisco. They are scattered through all parts of the city.

OCCUPATIONS

Perhaps the largest number is found in various sections of the Mission District. The majority are skilled workmen - machinists, tool-makers, automobile mechanics, carpenter.

Racial and Historical Background

Hungarians are predominantly an emotional people. Irrespective of the education or lack of education that characterizes their mental equipment, the fact remains that their incidental or conscious actions are first of all directed by emotions of imaginative significance. Hungarian music "proves" this.

The average Hungarian looks upon life as a colorful adventure and not as a round of burdensome duty--although he has a sense of duty. Even the Hungarian Calvinist does this. The same problem that the Magyars have encountered in Europe for the past thousand years is even more accentuated in their American environment. What is the fundamental problem of Hungary in her relationship to the outside world? To adjust the emotional handicap of the East to the opportunistic conditions of the West.

The Hungarians arrived in Europe in 896 A.D. as the last group of the migration from Asia which started with the Huns. Their leaders decided to settle down on the shores of the Danube. Their main task was the curbing of the nomadic habits of their people. In the year 1000 Hungary accepted Western civilization by adopting Christianity. And although for one thousand years Hungary served culture and progress in a western European sense (winning and being defeated in battles fought in defense of organized Christianity, as well as for her national existence), nevertheless in the subconscious self of the people restless shadows of the pagan gods of their ancestors caused uneasiness: a feeling that alienated them from the West without bringing them nearer to the East. Hungarian literature, art, folklore, and the superstitions of the unsophisticated peasants show convincingly this friction between the racial past and political present. As a psychological phenomenon it is interesting to observe that, while various peoples of similar or entirely different racial backgrounds

settled down in Hungary and that wars and intermarriages extinguished the racial purity of the Hungarian people, yet, the Hungarianized foreigners quite often absorbed the imaginative emotionalism of the Hungarians, sometimes at the expense of their practical self. What was once a racial trait developed into a national trait. All groups of Hungarians in America--whatever their education and their degree of "Americanization" resemble each other in so far that they face the same problem, namely the overcoming of the handicap of surplus emotions.

Although the Magyars are ethnologically and linguistically related to the Finns and the Esthonians, the Hungarian language differs from any other European language so profoundly that it has led to an ideology of conservatism; and even today it influences the thinking of the average Hungarian. No one outside of Hungary except in special circumstances--would learn the Magyar language. This linguistic isolation, whereas in reality it is a form of collective sensitiveness.

The oppression of the Slovaks by the Magyars in pre-war Hungary can, at least partially, be explained by the dominant, aggressive spirit of the latter people.

Hungary at present is another one of the succession states of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Peace Conference in 1918 assigned to the new states, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, a large part of the territory formerly belonging to Hungary. The division purported to be an ethnological one: the territory occupied by the Slovaks went to Czechoslovakia, that occupied by the Croats went to Yugoslavia; and a third slice was assigned to Rumania. The population of the remaining territory is about 90 per cent Magyar.

Emigration and Its Causes

The bulletin of the U. S. Census Bureau issued June 1932, gives the contemporary figures for Magyar stock as 268,112 foreign born Magyars, and 205,426 born in the U. S. of foreign born parents, a total of 473,538 (the grand total for all immigrants from Hungary and their immediate descendants, including Slovaks, Croats, Rumanians, etc., is given as 1,123,796). Why this large migration from Hungary during the last fifty years?

The answer lies in the social and economic conditions of the country-though political vicissitudes played their part also. Society in Hungary was, for centuries, divided into four distinct classes:

(1) THE GREATER NOBLES or magnates whose estates and titles had been granted by the king for some special service in the time of war or internal storm and stress. It was charged that these magnates often changed their language and religion in order to be in favor at the royal courts in Vienna and Budapest. This close alliance with the court cost them the favor and respect of the lesser nobles who in remote times were in friendly terms with them.

(2) THE NOBLES or landed proprietors whose titles and estates had been secured centuries ago as a result of armed service in the conquest of the land. These people have always been considered as the backbone of the country, who have held to the soil through all the hazards of circumstance. They are the great upper middle-class. Their liberal hospitality is well known--though, in the nature of things, this is made possible only by the privations and the meager living of the classes beneath them. While the magnate, or greater noble, does not manage his farm, the noble is proud to do so. And his wife shares the work with him, taking charge of the household affairs. The noble is usually well read and speaks several languages. Since the World War, the power and

influence of this class have been on the wane, but have by no means disappeared.

(3) THE PEASANTS who serve the magnates and nobles on the farms. These may be divided into three classes:

A. Beres, or those employed through the year. They are usually considered members of the family and are fairly well cared for and kindly treated.

B. Betyars who serve for a few months during the busy season. They work for wages, and these are low and vary in amount according to season.

C. Tenant farmers, renting from 1 to 100 acres of land and paying for the privilege with their labor.

(4) THE PROPRIETORS OF THE WORKS AND THE LABORERS OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS. The former have always largely consisted of Germans and Jews, for the Magyar is unremarkable for his business capacity. But among the city laborers there are, and always have been, many Magyars driven into the city by adverse economic conditions on the farms.

These four social classifications are still in effect, more or less, but before the World War they were practically absolute. The Magyar immigrants discussed in the present work came almost entirely from pre-war Hungary, and their past is merged in the old traditions of the country. The key to the Magyar (as well as to other Hungarian) emigration is to be found in the circumstances created by this division of classes.

Some sixty years ago the Hungarian government employed a large number of peasants in projects for reclaiming waste land and building river retaining walls. This work was practically completed between the years 1855 to 1869. The only resource left for the surplus of farm laborers, after this, was in the factories in cities, factories

which were few in number. Many migrated to America.

It was the custom of the remaining farm laborers to hire out in groups to work on the farms near their home villages. There were no permanent human relations between these betyars and the land owners for whom they worked. Their condition was often desperate. Labor agitators rose among them. There was a strike in 1894. Following this, the government took a hand, and established a bureau of farm labor, which could supply ten thousand men at a short notice. In other words, the government went into the strike breaking business. For the good of the strike breakers club rooms were built, various festivities were conducted, and their living conditions in general were made fairly tolerable. After this, there was little chance of any agricultural strike being successful. Every farm laborer who could find enough money for his passage emigrated to America. In the year 1900 about 100,000 Hungarians entered the United States.

Subject - Hungarian (Jewish)

This man was born in Budapest in 1885. He was one of five children, and a member of a family of modest means. In 1902, at the age of seventeen, he came to the United States and settled in New York City, where he lived with an uncle who was a nihilist. His uncle provided his support while he learned the language and customs of his new surroundings.

Becoming interested in law, he attended classes and studied with an attorney, and in 1913 he was admitted to the bar in the state of New York. He practiced law for about four years, and in the early part of 1918 was drafted ~~and served~~ as a soldier ~~during the war.~~

Returning to New York City he again resumed the practice of law. In 1920 he married a girl of Austrian (Jewish) descent, born in New York City. In 1922, becoming dissatisfied with conditions, he moved to Los Angeles, where he gained admittance to the bar and continued to practice law.

In 1928 he again moved, this time to Oakland, bringing with him his wife and two children. He has lived in Oakland since then where he has a moderately successful legal practice.

The depression failed to affect him

very materially, as he had no money invested in property or securities, and his practice continued to increase during the 1st years after the crash.

He has encountered some racial prejudice toward Jews in the course of his work, but seems to have accepted it philosophically and numbers among his friends many Gentiles.

His memory of economic, social, and political conditions in Hungary is somewhat hazy as to his own life there, but he states that his parents and those of his family who remained in Hungary, suffered greatly during the war and the post-war period. He ~~and~~ attributes to this suffering, ~~the cause of~~ the early deaths of his parents.

He is interested in the present political and ~~social~~ economic developments, not as a participant, but as an interested spectator, ~~esp~~ being especially concerned with the legal aspects of the recent recovery legislation being enacted in Congress and the various states.

He approves of the course being followed by the President, but seems to have some doubt as to the constitutionality of some of the measures adopted.

His two children, both boys, are

attending grammar school in Oakland.

He apparently ~~earns a~~ has a fairly substantial income, being the owner of his own home which is well furnished and the owner of two middle-priced automobiles. He ~~and~~ seems content with his position in the social and business world.

He heartily approves of the policy of state and federal jobs for unemployed people, and believes some sort of similar system should be worked out on a permanent basis.

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